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Board Chair Ciel Patenaude acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional and unceded territory of the Northern Secwepemc People.

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT TO THE BOARD**

Superintendent/Acting Secretary-Treasurer van der Mark reported on the following:

### **WELCOME**

Welcome to the new Board of Education. It will be hard to duplicate the volume of work the previous Board engaged in or stewarded as we have continued on our journey of improving systems, and ultimately, outcomes for students. The previous 3 and ½ years have seen the District improve in numerous domains. We have highlighted the ongoing work reflected in the improved financial performance of the district that has allowed for numerous innovations to occur. We have also seen improved trends of student outcomes over this time, including some of highest completion rates for all students. It should be noted, this has happened during 2 ½ years of COVID-19. We still have a long way to go, but if the new Board is able to continue on a similar path, students will continue to flourish.



Credit Williams Lake Tribune

Thanks to David Archie, from Williams Lake First Nation, for welcoming the new board and acknowledging the work of the previous board in the significant steps taken to move hearts and minds on the road to truth and reconciliation.

### **LEARNING SERIES**

For the upcoming Pro-D on November 25th, we are fortunate to have Dr. Leyton Schnellert and Carole Fullerton in district to facilitate learning rounds in Big Lake, 150 Mile, Horse Lake and PSO. The learning rounds are some of the best professional learning teachers can have. Other schools also send staff to observe/participate where possible.



Credit Williams Lake Tribune

We were also fortunate to have Shelley Moore back in district November 17-18 where she worked with staff at Columneetza. Shelley is an internationally (BC developed) renowned expert on inclusion and effective classroom/lesson design. She is also a keynote at the upcoming BCSTA Academy.

Trustees will be familiar with the work and thinking shared by the Columneetza team last spring as they highlighted their work in building more inclusive learning communities. Special thanks to the CCTA and Ms. Nara Riplinger for their/her work and support of these learning opportunities.

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### **FOCUSED EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

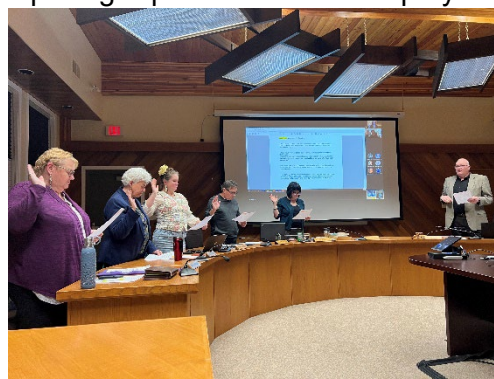
SD 27 was asked to present at the November 17-18 IT4K12 Focused Education conference. SD 27 (Director Sean Cameron) was co-presenting with SD 43 and IBM K-12 on the digitization possibilities with the Microsoft Power App software suite. Currently SD 27 and SD 43 are the only two districts exploring the possibilities of this product. SD 27 shared the design and development process utilized to create a digital field trip approval workflow, lessons learned from the experience, and an overview of vision for how this product can be utilized to support all aspects of the organization.

### **BCSSA FALL CONFERENCE**

Most of the Senior Team had the opportunity gather in Vancouver for the annual conference (Nov 3-4). Key speakers include Dr. Leyton Schnellert and Shelley Moore (who we work closely with), as well as Jo Chrona. The sessions were timely and uplifting. Special thanks to Deputy Superintendent Lenardon for her role as Pro-D Chair for the BCSSA.

### **BCSTA TRUSTEE ACADEMY**

SD27 trustees and senior leadership will join trustees from around the province in Vancouver Dec 1-3, where they help set the stage and provide orientation for new trustees. A keynote speaker is Shelley Moore, who you will also recognize from our learning series. This is an excellent opportunity for trustees to connect. It also sets the stage for helping new trustees understand their roles within a governance structure.



Credit Williams Lake Tribune

### **FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT**

Schools completed their FSA's at the grade 4 and 7 levels. We appreciate the efforts made by schools to make this process as authentic and useful. These are used to inform instruction and align with regular, ongoing instruction and assessments that teachers use every day.

We have been delighted to have teachers and administrators working together over the past 3 years to mark these assessments together, and ultimately improve practice. This collaborative effort is not common across the province, but it is greatly appreciated.

As mentioned last month, First Nations rightsholders, Indigenous organizations, and many education partners have expressed the importance of FSA results in supporting our most vulnerable learners and advancing our commitment to reconciliation. The FSA provides an important line of sight into the learning trajectories for Indigenous students and other student groups. With multi-partner consultation, the FSA aligns with BC's redesigned curriculum and the components of literacy and numeracy are measured in all provincial assessments.

### **COLUMNEETZA DAYCARE PROJECT**

We are continuing with partner meetings in the design phase, led by Chernoff Thompson Architects. We were thrilled to have outstanding local candidates interesting in the construction

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To read full Board and Committee Reports, view the agenda on the [District Website](#).

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manager role. Lauren Brothers will be leading the work. Despite cost escalations, we are still optimistic with regards to project start, completion, and occupancy.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **POLICY**

Superintendent Chris van der Mark provided a summary overview of outstanding Policies that require review, and Administrative Procedures that have been developed over the past 2 years. Only 3 sections and 5 policies are left for revision.

DRAFT Policy 440 – Violence in the Workplace be sent out for consultation.

**Motion** to be sent out for consultation was carried.

DRAFT Policy 520 – Smoking & Smokeless Tobacco Restrictions out for consultation.

**Motion** to be sent out for consultation was carried.

### **FINANCE AND FACILITIES**

The committee received updates on the below topics.

#### ❖ **Affordability Fund**

Superintendent van der Mark provided reviewed the Districts plan for the Affordability Fund that was provided to districts in August 2022. The senior team met with some PVP to establish priorities and areas of need. The District has also partnered with Rotary to help meet the expanded need/costs of the Starfish Backpack program.

#### ❖ **Transfinder Implementation**

Transportation and Facilities Manager, Patrick McCarron, Asst. Ops Manager Ben Bennison, and Administrative Assistant Nicole Pittman, provided a demonstration the new Transfinder bus system, and how bus drivers will use tablets to checking students on and off the school bus each day.

#### ❖ **Medicine Wheel Installations**

District Principal of Indigenous Learning, Grant Gustafson, presented the Medicine Wheel landscaping projects at WL, Columneetza, and PSO. This work showcases our ongoing commitment to the First Peoples' Principals of Learning in the district.

### **EDUCATION**

The committee received updates on the below topics.

#### ❖ **SOGI**

Deputy Superintendent Lenardon provided an update on the Districts SOGI plan. The school lead teams will continue to meet, plan, and celebrate SOGI-inclusive initiatives in the school district.

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❖ **Orange Shirt Day Highlights**

District Principal of Indigenous Learning, Grant Gustafson, will make a presentation to share and celebrate the work that schools performed to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The presentation was given showing the wonderful events what took place at the schools and how they marked the importance of the day. Mr. Gustafson commented that this was by far the most meaningful engagement of schools during in his time in the District.

❖ **Rural Secondary Update**

Instructional Director Anita Richardson gave the committee an update on the changing landscape of rural school programs for students in grades 11 and 12, including increased options for staying in community where appropriate.

❖ **November Learning Series**

Superintendent van der Mark provided an update on the November Learning Series events.

❖ **FESL update**

Discussion postponed until the December 14th meeting.

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